

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Twice Amended) An energy absorbing system comprising:

an energy absorber mechanically coupled to a net;

a joint mechanically coupled to the energy absorber;

a sleeve rotatably mechanically coupled to an anchor and mechanically coupled to the joint; and

a support mechanically coupled to the net via a frangible connector,

wherein the frangible connector uncouples the support from the net upon application of at least a threshold force to the frangible connector, and wherein the joint pivots on a horizontal axis and supports the energy absorber at a predetermined angle relative to ground level.

30-69. (Cancelled)

70. (Twice Amended) A method for absorbing the energy of an errant vehicle, comprising:

positioning a net across an area through which the vehicle is expected to pass, the net being mechanically coupled to an energy absorber, which is mechanically coupled to a joint, which is mechanically coupled to a sleeve, which is rotatably mechanically coupled to an anchor; and

mechanically coupling the net to a support through a frangible connector,

wherein the frangible connector uncouples the support from the net upon application of at least a threshold force to the frangible connector by the vehicle and the force of the vehicle is transferred through the net to the anchor, and

wherein the joint pivots on a horizontal axis and supports the energy absorber at a predetermined angle relative to ground level.

71-74. (Cancelled)

75. (Twice Amended) An energy absorbing system comprising:

means for absorbing energy;

means for restraining a vehicle, the restraining means being connected to the energy absorbing means to enable the transfer of energy from a vehicle impacting the restraining means to the energy absorbing means;

means for permitting the restraining means to rotate about the energy absorbing means;

means for pivoting the restraining means on a horizontal axis and supporting the energy absorbing means at a predetermined angle relative to ground level; and

means for supporting the restraining means in a position likely to be impacted by the vehicle until the application of at least a threshold force by the vehicle to the restraining means.

76-92. (Cancelled)

93. (Previously Added) The energy absorbing system of claim 29, wherein the predetermined angle is substantially parallel to ground level.
94. (Previously Added) The energy absorbing system of claim 29, wherein the joint includes a stop plate preventing the joint from pivoting beyond the predetermined angle.
95. (Previously Added) The energy absorbing system of claim 29, wherein the sleeve is substantially vertically fixed relative to the anchor.
96. (Previously Added) The energy absorbing system of claim 29, further comprising a tensioning device mechanically coupling the frangible connector and one of the net and the support.
97. (Previously Added) The energy absorbing system of claim 96, wherein the frangible connector and tensioning device are combined into a single device.
98. (Previously Added) The energy absorbing system of claim 29, further comprising:
- a second energy absorber mechanically coupled to a lower portion of the net and arranged below the energy absorber; and
 - a second joint mechanically coupled to the second energy absorber and mechanically coupled to the sleeve,
 - wherein the second joint pivots on a horizontal axis and supports the second energy absorber at a predetermined angle relative to ground level.

99-102. (Cancelled)

103. (Previously Added) An energy absorbing system comprising:

an energy absorber mechanically coupled to a net;

a joint mechanically coupled to the energy absorber;

a sleeve rotatably mechanically coupled to an anchor and mechanically coupled to the joint; and

a support having a base mechanically coupled to a post mechanically coupled to the net,

wherein the post uncouples from the base upon application of at least a threshold force to the net, and wherein the joint supports the energy absorber at a predetermined angle relative to ground level.